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# 09/07/1993 - EIU Grads Satisfied With Academic Environment

University Marketing and Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU GRADS SATISFIED WITH ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University students are very satisfied with their academic environment, according to a survey of graduating seniors (1989 to 1992). The survey indicates the Eastern students are generally more satisfied with their university than graduates at other schools nationwide.

The Board of Governors Universities, the governing body for Eastern and four other Illinois public universities, directed its five universities to conduct the survey for academic retention studies.

The instrument used in the project, the Student Opinion Survey, is owned and marketed by American College Testing (ACT) and used by hundreds of colleges and universities nationally.

Those surveyed were asked more than 80 questions concerning their background, college services they received and the college environment.

David Dodd, Eastern's director of testing services, analyzed the data and issued a report last month containing information on 13 items pertaining to academic environment.

At least two-thirds of the respondents were "satisfied" or

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"very satisfied" with 12 of the 13 aspects of college environment that were measured.

When compared to survey results from 101 public colleges and universities nationwide, the satisfaction level of the total EIU sample exceeded the national norm on all 13 items.

Dodd said it is also worth noting that on 10 of the 13 items, the proportion of Eastern students expressing satisfaction was greater during 1991-92 than during 1989-90.

Data show that 91 percent of the Eastern graduates during this two-year period were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with class size relative to type of course.

Eighty-nine percent also reported satisfaction with the university in general. The testing and grading system at Eastern is also satisfactory, according to 86 percent of the graduating seniors. Course content in major, instruction in major, out-of-class availability of instructors and faculty attitude toward students were also rated highly by the respondents.